Number of medical students in the several German Universities at the recent conclusion of the academical year. The editors remark that they have been at some pains to collect these and other statistics of the universities.

Berlin	404	Jena	72
Bonn	122	Kenigsberg	84
Breslau	128	Leipsic	220
Halle	115	Munich	195
Heidelberg	148	Copenhagen	142

T. R. B.

On the Intermittent Fever of New England. By SAMUEL FORRY, M. D. (Extract from a letter to the Editor.

DEAR SIR:—Dr. Stephen W. Williams, of Deerfield, Mass., having controverted, in a communication lately made to you, a statement of mine that appeared in an article on "The Endemic Influences of the United States," published in your Journal for October last, it is desirable that such an explanation may be made as will avoid all subsequent controversy, whilst the ends of Medical Science shall be promoted. Upon this point Dr. Williams evinces the proper spirit. In the investigation of a subject so diversified and extended as the *medical geography* of the United States, it requires the combined labours of all who have at heart the interest no less of general than of medical science. If every one would contribute his mite after the manner of Dr. W., much would soon be effected towards determining the laws of nature in regard to the influence of external agents upon the healthy and diseased condition of man.

The error exposed by Dr. W. is found in the following quotation made by me from the work of Dr. Joseph Mather Smith on the etiology of epidemics:—"On the Connecticut river, from Northampton in Massachusetts to its source, a distance of more than 200 miles north and south, and on all its tributary streams on both sides for 100 miles in width, there has been no instance of any person having contracted the intermittent fever, from the first settlement of the country to the present time." This statement, it seems, was first made by Professor Nathan Smith in his work on Typhus Fever, and to show its erroneousness, Dr. Williams refers me to Holmes' Prize Dissertation on the Intermittent Fever of New England,—a work which I take shame in acknowledging that I have not before read. Dr. Holmes, many of whose facts were obtained by opening a general correspondence by letter throughout New England, proves conclusively that intermitting fever has prevailed on the Connecticut river from our earliest colonial history. In a letter from Dr. Williams himself, contained in this treatise, it is shown that the locality of Deerfield, on the Connecticut, which was once the bed of a lake, and subsequently became converted into meadows and marshes, was in former years rife with fever and ague. Within the last sixty-five years, however, few cases have occurred, and at present it is unknown—a result ascribable to the gradual drying up of the marshes. Dr. Holmes further proves from historical evidence that, in 1671, fever and ague prevailed at Boston, and also at New Haven, on its "first planting." In regard to the latter place, the historian remarks that "upon these southern coasts of New England it is not annual, as in Virginia, there being sundry years when there is nothing considerable of it, nor ordinarily so violent and universal."

Dr. Holmes' essay is accompanied with a map of New England, exhibiting the localities in which intermittents have been at any time indigenous; and the fact that but twenty-seven such points, including three on Lake Champlain, are laid down over this wide extent of territory, proves of itself the extreme infrequency of the disease. Moreover, one half of these localities are on the Connecticut and Housatonic rivers, which have *rich alluvial* tracts, whilst along the shore of Long Island Sound, between the mouths of these two rivers, a narrow *alluvial flat* extends. These facts, then, instead of disproving, confirm the conclusion arrived at in my article on "The Endemic Influences of the United States," viz. *that a region of primary formation, with a sandy soil and an undulating surface, is exempt from fever and ague.* The occasional prevalence of this disease in the valley of the Connecticut river, affords, indeed, a happy illustration of the ancient axiom of the exception proving the rule; for here, contrary to the general geological character of New England, we have a secondary instead of a primary formation. "The valley of the Connecticut," says Bradford in his Illustrated Atlas, "is occupied by a basin of *secondary* rocks of about fifteen miles in average width, consisting of red shales, argillaceous sandstones, and beds of conglomerates, crossed by numerous dykes and ridges of trap." As this formation has an alluvial superstratum, we discover a marked geological analogy between this valley and the Atlantic plain on which malarial diseases are dominant.

In my article on "The Endemic Influences of the United States," the following language is used:—"Now as the region of New England, *with little exception*, has a primitive formation, with a sandy and sterile soil, whilst that of the great lakes consists of a secondary formation, having not unfrequently an alluvial superstratum of a rich vegetable mould, from three to six feet deep, it is not difficult to deduce the correct inference. In the former, the geological formation is destitute of organic remains, and the little contained in the sandy soil does not find enough of moisture to induce the necessary chemical action; whilst in the latter, not only is the geological structure of secondary origin, but the deep rich soil is sufficiently humid, when a high temperature acts upon the organic remains with which it abounds, for the development of the morbid poison, called malaria." Now in adverting to the italicised words, "*with little exception*," does it not afford a striking confirmation of the validity of my deduction, to find by subsequent facts that this *excepted* portion is the one in which fever and ague have always been more or less generated? As this disease is no longer known at Boston, Deerfield, and some of the other localities laid down on Holmes' map, we are warranted in the belief that the endemic, wherever it may have been indigenous in the New England States, is attributable to peculiar local causes; as, for example, at Deerfield there formerly existed an accumulation of remains in the marshes and meadows formed by the bed of an ancient lake.

In my work on "The Climate of the United States and its Endemic Influences," which will be published in a few days, the question of the agency of soil in the production of malarial diseases, is still more fully investigated.

I have the honour to be, very respectfully, your obed't. serv't,

Samuel Forry, M. D.

New York, March 1, 1842.

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Nathaniel Chapman, M. D.—The following sketch of the distinguished Professor of the practice of medicine in the University of Pennsylvania is from our cotemporary the Medical Examiner. All who are acquainted with the "present head of the profession"* in this country will bear testimony to the correctness of the outlines and the perfect justice of the colouring:—

Professor Chapman is the Sir Henry Halford of the United States. He is not more distinguished for professional attainments than for courtliness and vivacity of manner, wit, knowledge of the world, and literary taste. His private character forms a marked contrast with that of his late friend and cotemporary, Physick, with whom he so long shared the first rank in the profession of Philadelphia. Physick, who shunned general society, and was little known except in professional intercourse, had a reserved stateliness of manner from which he never unbent. Engrossed by his patients and profession, he seldom entered into the every-day topics of life, and is remembered only as the skilful surgeon and successful operator. Chapman's temperament was cast in a different mould. Eminently social in disposition, with a gaiety of spirit that has not flagged with years—a wit—a punster—delightful as a companion, and enjoying

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* He was thus enthusiastically toasted at a very large professional dinner in Philadelphia two years since. The first toast was "the memory of the late head of the profession, Dr. Physick." On Dr. Chapman, who presided, retiring, his health as the present head of the profession was offered as a toast, and received with acclamation.